

going to be a level of increase that goes up to a percentage which varies from about 2 degrees centigrade to 3 degrees centigrade, up to 7.7 degrees Fahrenheit. And .07 of a degree from that is not going to make a difference with respect to the fundamental issue of the Earth warming.

So again, let's debate apples and apples, not something else. I think that is important in this debate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, at this time, if the Senator wants, we can yield back our time.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I yield my time, except for 1 minute for the chairman of the committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to talk about something else for a moment to let Senators know where we are. We have been working staff to staff. We are so close to completing this WRDA bill. Once we vote on this 60-vote issue, we are down to a few amendments. There is a managers' package that has been signed off on by the leaders of the committee. We would like to get that done.

What we want to say to colleagues on both sides is, if you want to participate in this bill, tonight would be the night to do it because we are wrapping this thing up tomorrow. Our hope is we can complete it. We have this managers' package. If you have something you need to say about this bill, if you have a last-minute amendment you want to show us, this would be the time, this would be the moment.

I would be happy to yield some time to my colleague if he wishes to make some comments.

Mr. INHOFE. No. Mr. President, I thank the chairman of the committee and the manager of this bill. Let me say I agree with everything the Senator said. I thought we were going to finish it tonight, but if it is tomorrow, it is tomorrow. It is too significant not to finish it.

I appreciate the Senator from Massachusetts joining me in yielding back the remainder of our time. We are going to be ready to take a vote here shortly.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 1094.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. LOTT. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) would have voted "nay."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bayh	Gregg	Murray
Biden	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Inouye	Obama
Boxer	Kennedy	Reed
Cantwell	Kerry	Reid
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sanders
Carper	Kohl	Schumer
Casey	Landrieu	Smith
Clinton	Lautenberg	Snowe
Coleman	Leahy	Specter
Collins	Levin	Stabenow
Dodd	Lieberman	Sununu
Domenici	Lincoln	Tester
Dorgan	Lugar	Warner
Durbin	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Feingold	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—42

Alexander	Craig	McConnell
Allard	Crapo	Murkowski
Baucus	Ensign	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Enzi	Pryor
Bond	Graham	Roberts
Bunning	Grassley	Salazar
Burr	Hagel	Sessions
Byrd	Hatch	Shelby
Chambliss	Hutchison	Stevens
Coburn	Inhofe	Thomas
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Conrad	Kyl	Vitter
Corker	Lott	Voinovich
Cornyn	Martinez	Webb

NOT VOTING—7

Brown	Dole	Rockefeller
Brownback	Johnson	
DeMint	McCain	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 42.

Under the previous order, requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

Mr. REID. Mr. President, with the concurrence of the Republican leader, I now ask that the Senate turn to the consideration of H. R. 2206.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H. R. 2206) making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agriculture and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1123

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL, I send a substitute amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL, proposes an amendment numbered 1123.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions

Since under the Constitution, the President and Congress have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm's way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)

That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

(3) the President and Congress should—

(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1124 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1123

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I call up an amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL, proposes an amendment numbered 1124 to amendment No. 1123.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions)

In the amendment strike all after the first word and insert the following: under the Constitution, the President and Congress have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm's way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

(3) the President and Congress should—

(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.

This section shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that it be reflected that this amendment is on behalf of Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1125 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1124

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I call up a second-degree amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 1125 to amendment No. 1124.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions)

The President and Congress have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm's way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

(3) the President and Congress should—

(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.

This section shall take effect 2 days after date of enactment.

MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit H.R. 2206 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 1126.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1126

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions)

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

Since under the Constitution, the President and Congress have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm's way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

(3) the President and Congress should—

(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.

This section shall take effect 5 days after date of enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1127 TO THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE MOTION TO COMMIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 1127 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 2206.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions)

In the amendment strike all after Congress in line 1 and insert the following:

“have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

“Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm’s way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

“Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

“Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

“That it is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

“(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

“(3) the President and Congress should—

“(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

“(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.”

This section shall take effect 4 days after the date of enactment.

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1128 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1127

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 1128 to amendment No. 1127.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: Expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions)

At the end of the amendment add the following:

Since under the Constitution, the President and Congress have shared responsibilities for decisions on the use of the Armed Forces of the United States, including their mission, and for supporting the Armed Forces, especially during wartime;

Since when the Armed Forces are deployed in harm’s way, the President, Congress, and the Nation should give them all the support they need in order to maintain their safety and accomplish their assigned or future missions, including the training, equipment, logistics, and funding necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness, and such support is the responsibility of both the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch of Government; and

Since thousands of members of the Armed Forces who have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan are not receiving the kind of medical care and other support this Nation owes them when they return home: Now, therefore, be it

Determined by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

That it is the Sense of Congress that—

(1) the President and Congress should not take any action that will endanger the Armed Forces of the United States, and will provide necessary funds for training, equipment, and other support for troops in the field, as such actions will ensure their safety and effectiveness in preparing for and carrying out their assigned missions;

(2) the President, Congress, and the Nation have an obligation to ensure that those who have bravely served this country in time of war receive the medical care and other support they deserve; and

(3) the President and Congress should—

(A) continue to exercise their constitutional responsibilities to ensure that the Armed Forces have everything they need to perform their assigned or future missions; and

(B) review, assess, and adjust United States policy and funding as needed to ensure our troops have the best chance for success in Iraq and elsewhere.

This section shall take effect 3 days after date of enactment.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the Reid-McConnell amendment No. 1123 relating to Iraq to H.R. 2206, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Daniel K. Inouye, Jon Tester, Bill Nelson (FL), Jeff Bingaman, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Frank R. Lautenberg, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Carper, Charles Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Ted Kennedy, Amy Klobuchar.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a second cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 146, H.R. 2206, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

Harry Reid, Barbara Boxer, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, Patrick Leahy, Carl Levin, Dianne Feinstein, Daniel K. Inouye, Byron L. Dorgan, Benjamin L. Cardin, Max Baucus, Bill Nelson (FL), Charles Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Richard J. Durbin, Daniel K. Akaka, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Reid-McConnell amendment to H.R. 2206 occur on Thursday 1 hour after the Senate convenes and notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, and that if cloture is invoked, the Senate remain on H.R. 2206 until it is disposed of, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me for my side of the aisle describe what we have just done. Senator REID and I have entered into an agreement, which I previously described to my conference, under which we will be able to smooth the passage of the supplemental appropriations bill into conference. The majority leader, with my concurrence, has filled up the tree and filed cloture. This should give us an opportunity Thursday afternoon on a broad bipartisan basis to move this troop funding bill into conference where we will continue our discussions.

The majority leader and I have had several meetings with the President’s designee, Chief of Staff Josh Bolten, and we will have additional meetings—as well as with House Democrats and Republicans—and hopefully achieve what I think we all want to achieve at this point, which is a signed troop funding bill before Memorial Day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader and I have worked very closely in the past week or two on the process we are following this evening. We both agree it is imperative that we get to conference with the House as quickly as possible, and adoption of the Murray amendment, which is the amendment which was offered here, will allow us to do just that. This is a procedural step.

We are anxious to get to conference to work with the President’s Chief of Staff Josh Bolten. He has been available any time we have asked for his presence. He realizes there is going to have to be some serious negotiations. We also understand that it is not just the Senate. The House has to be involved in these negotiations, and we

certainly understand that and Mr. Bolton understands that.

We have a long way to go, but this was a tremendous step forward. We may disagree on a lot of issues dealing with the policy in Iraq, but the one point on which we agree—both Democrats and Republicans—is that the troops must have everything they need and more, and we are going to make sure that is the case.

The Republican leader and I agree, and I have spoken with the Speaker of the House at 5 o'clock today, and she agrees with me, that we are going to finish this bill and this conference report prior to our leaving for the Memorial Day recess. Everyone should rest assured we are going to do that. I hope we can do that without causing a lot of discomfort to Senators and Members of the House if we finish this bill at a reasonable time a week from Thursday or Friday, but if we can't, we are going no place until we finish this legislation and it gets to the President's desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

CONCLUSION OF WRDA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to take less than a minute to tell colleagues where we are. I thank the majority leader for his assistance on the WRDA bill. Our understanding is that we have a managers' package with several amendments. There may be only one or two that are contentious. Our goal for tomorrow, once we complete the Iraq votes, is to go to the managers' package without the contentious one or two amendments in it. By the way, I don't think any of them are contentious, but one Senator is saying they are.

We will adopt that managers' package hopefully by a voice vote, and then if it is necessary to have a recorded vote on these one or two additional amendments, we will do that and then move to final passage of WRDA, something we can be very proud of after 7 long years of not having a bill.

I thank my colleagues in advance for their cooperation.

To the Senator who may have a problem with one or two of these amendments, please take another hard look because they are noncontroversial, and I hope that Senator can join with us. We can finish this bill tomorrow in the very early afternoon or the late morning, and both sides can be very proud.

Again, this is a bill that is endorsed by just about everyone in the country.

I say to my colleagues, our intention is to conclude this bill tomorrow. Senator INHOFE and I are very strongly interested in concluding it tomorrow. The bipartisan members of the committee are very strongly interested.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue with the call of the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT—Continued

WARNER AMENDMENT NO. 1134

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate return to consideration of H.R. 1495.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I think we have just seen an extraordinary chapter of how two leaders can come together and structure a procedure by which this Senate can go forward and achieve its objectives. I am totally supportive of the procedure enunciated by our two distinguished leaders because I strongly support the need for getting this appropriations legislation through and on to the President's desk so that we can fund adequately our Armed Forces, particularly those engaged in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The leadership further decided that those Senators who wish to address the conferees could do so by adding amendments to this bill. My understanding is that there are two amendments that have been filed on the other side of the aisle: one by Mr. FEINGOLD and another by Mr. LEVIN. And in consultation with the distinguished Republican leader, I now file an amendment on this side of the aisle, although I am hopeful my amendment would not be viewed purely as a Republican amendment but that it could be a vehicle by which we can reach some level, hopefully a significant level, of bipartisan consensus on the several principles I have enunciated in this amendment.

Throughout the course of this debate on Iraq, since the President's announcement of a new strategy on January 10 of this year, there have been groups of Republicans and Democrats that have voiced our concerns about the strategies being employed in Iraq, and we continue to do so by virtue of this process now decided upon by the leadership whereby amendments to this bill can be brought up, which amendments reflect the sentiments of those who are sponsoring them.

At the present time, my amendment is sponsored by my principal cosponsor, the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, although I have been in consultation with a number of other Senators on this side of the aisle, as well as Senators on the other side of the aisle.

Given the brevity of the time today, since Senators have returned from

their constituencies largely this morning, and the fact that we have been trying to work out the procedure just adopted by the Senate by the two leaders, it has not been possible for me to isolate a fixed set of cosponsors. Nevertheless, I do know of a number, certainly on this side, and I am hopeful on the other side, and now that this amendment is filed tonight, it is my expectation and hope that Senators will be adding their names as cosponsors. I urge that be done at the earliest opportunity because, as I understand it, and the leadership will subsequently address, I think, the Senate tonight respecting the legislative program tomorrow as to when my amendment, with such cosponsors that are able to add their names, and the two amendments pending from the other side—and I believe a fourth that is to be brought up by our distinguished Republican leader sometime this evening—will be debated, voted upon, and subject to a cloture motion.

Let me now turn to addressing the specifics of this amendment at this time. This amendment, in its preamble, has the following: We entitle it the "President's Strategy In Iraq." Section 1. Findings regarding progress in Iraq, the establishment of benchmarks to measure that progress, and reports to the Congress.

The recitation in the first section of this amendment is a series of statements factually describing the situation as we, the sponsors of this amendment, feel have taken place, largely since January 10 of this year. Foremost among those obligations is, of course, our recognition of the enormity of the sacrifice of the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families and others who have taken an active role in carrying out our strategies in Iraq, not just since January 10 of this year but prior thereto, in the regrettably long period of time that this conflict in Iraq has persisted.

Following those statements, we then go to section 2, which is entitled, "Conditioning of Future United States Strategy in Iraq on the Iraqi Government's Record of Performance on its Benchmarks."

In General. The United States strategy in Iraq, hereafter, shall be conditioned on the Iraqi government meeting benchmarks as told to Members of Congress by the President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and reflected in the Iraqi Government's commitments to the United States, and to the international community, including . . .

For example, benchmarks—and I shall read but several. First and foremost:

Forming a Constitutional Review Committee and then completing the Constitutional review;

Enacting and implementing legislation on de-baathification;

Enacting and implementing legislation to ensure the equitable distribution of hydrocarbon resources of the people of Iraq without regard to the sect or ethnicity of recipients, and enacting and implementing legislation to ensure that the energy resources of